

# Community Matters

stories of connection, hospitality & reciprocity in the community

Community Matters is a newsletter by the Building Caring Communities Team.  
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## Another Great Day in Vancouver

Contributed by Joe Erpenbeck



Eddie is known by many for his charm and outgoing personality. He is extremely friendly and can often be heard saying things like "Hello Beautiful!" and "Let's talk for a minute" to people he meets throughout his day. These gifts were especially appreciated during the "My Great Day in Vancouver" event we hosted as part of the 100 in 1 Day citizen festival on June 7th.

We gathered at Mount Pleasant Park with paint, brushes and markers, and set up a large wooden canvas to invite people to draw, paint or write a story about a great day that they have had in our city. We also had coffee and lemonade to create a welcoming place for people to chat and get to know each other better as they added their story.



Eddie was the welcoming committee, offering people drinks as they walked or biked by and telling them about our project. His welcoming smile and invitation must have been hard to turn down, since he helped attract almost 100 people to have a conversation and participate in our event.

Neighbours young and old enjoyed talking to Eddie and engaging him in stories. At this event, which celebrated the beauty and vibrancy of the city, having Eddie, a 78 year old man who has lived here most of his life was definitely a highlight. The end result was a beautiful mural and another great day in Vancouver for many.



Looking to get more connected in your neighbourhood?

Do you have a great community initiative you want to spread the word about?

Contact the Building Caring Communities Team at the HUB: [hello@buildingcaringcommunities.ca](mailto:hello@buildingcaringcommunities.ca)

## Building the Container *Contributed by John Woods*

On Sunday, June 29, a neighbourhood citizens' group called *Edmonds People In-Community* (EPIC) Residents Association presented a free outdoor concert in the brand-new plaza outside Edmonds Community Centre.

This first show of the "EPIC Music In The Park" Series was hosted by seasoned performer, Jeff Neufel. It featured great budding local musicians – most of whom were regulars at an open mike night in New Westminster.

Some folks showed up early to cheer on the artists, while others drifted in as the show went on, surprised and drawn in by the beautiful music. Enthusiastic children rode around on tiny bikes. Adults sat in small groups and soaked up the evening sun. New acquaintances were made. It was everything you would want to see happening in a vibrant community.

EPIC's mission is to foster a more connected neighbourhood. With this event, they created a welcoming musical container in a brand new-public space, then stood back and let it fill with fun, friendship and community life.



## Finding Care in the Community *Contributed by Sebastian Ennis*



On the tip of her toes, with only her index finger resting on the side of the wheel, a young girl turned to her father and scrunched her face into a questioning smile; he nodded. As her heels came to rest upon the wet grass, with both hands now tightly pulled to her side, the wheel began to spin - "Twack thwack thwack". A plastic wedge at the top flapped, quickly at first, then gradually slower and slower. When the wheel stopped moving, the wedge pointed down to a question written in elegant cursive letters against a backdrop of red: *Where's the most romantic place in your community?* The young girl turned to her father, unsure of how to answer. He knelt down beside her. "Where would mommy and daddy go out to dinner?" he asked. But she simply shook her head, keeping her eyes to the ground. And then, with a sudden confidence, she turned back to the table where we sat. "It's the church where mommy

and daddy got married," she said. Her father smiled, briefly lost in a distant memory, and shook his head in agreement without a word.

Building Caring Communities team members joined in on the fun at the Burnaby Youth Week Block Party this summer with a carnival-style question wheel and a map of Burnaby.

Over the course of the day, kids of all ages (and some adults who just wanted to be a part of the fun) spun the wheel and put together an intricate map of the assets in the neighbourhood. The answers would sometimes generate conversation with others huddled around the map. Others hung out nearby, just listening to those working away on the map as they identified places that have made a difference to them.

They were looking to find places of care in the community: beautiful places, romantic places, friendly places, safe places and even the best places for bubble tea. It was an exercise in community mapping and a reminder of the places of care we sometimes forget about, yet long to remember.

## Get connected in your community: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Safe Amp Society Presents Diverse Bill at Astorino's

**Where:** Astorino's – 1739 Venables Street, Vancouver

**When:** Sunday, August 17, 7pm

**Cost:** \$5 or pay what you can

Safe Amp Society presents a Music & Poetry Show featuring Evan Symons, The Rain and the Sidewalk, Jagged (Jazz Noise duet from Kamloops), Soressa Gardner and Dennis E. Bolen (Poetry and Sound).

Check out the [Diverse Bill at Astorino's](#) Facebook event for more info. Please note that Astorino's is fully accessible.

### EPIC Presents Music In The Park

**Where:** Edmonds Park -

7435 Edmonds Street, Burnaby

**When:** July 27 and August 31 (Sundays)

FREE music performances at Edmonds Park. Visit [EPIC presents Music In The Park](#) on Facebook for more information

### TGIF Dancing in the Square

**Where:** Hyack Square, New Westminster (near Columbia SkyTrain station)

**When:** Every Friday, July 18 – August 8, 2014, 7 - 9 pm (Closed Friday, August 1)

Dance under the evening sky in downtown New Westminster! Learn from some of the best dance instructors and bop 'til you drop... or until 9 pm! Since this is an outdoor event and subject to weather conditions, make sure to visit the website on the day of to find out if the event is happening. There are lessons from 7 - 7:30pm and dancing from 7:30 - 9pm. These events are FREE!

### Summer Outdoor Concerts

**Where:** Trout Lake Community Centre, 3360 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

**When:** All Wednesdays in July and August, 6:30 pm

Bring the family and join us Wednesday evenings for FREE live music at Trout Lake Community Centre outdoor performance area (eastside of building). There will be a BBQ and a kid's art station. **July Line-up:** July 16 - Highrise Lonesome (Bluegrass) | July 23 - Late Thaw Band (Country) | July 30 - Robin & Paul